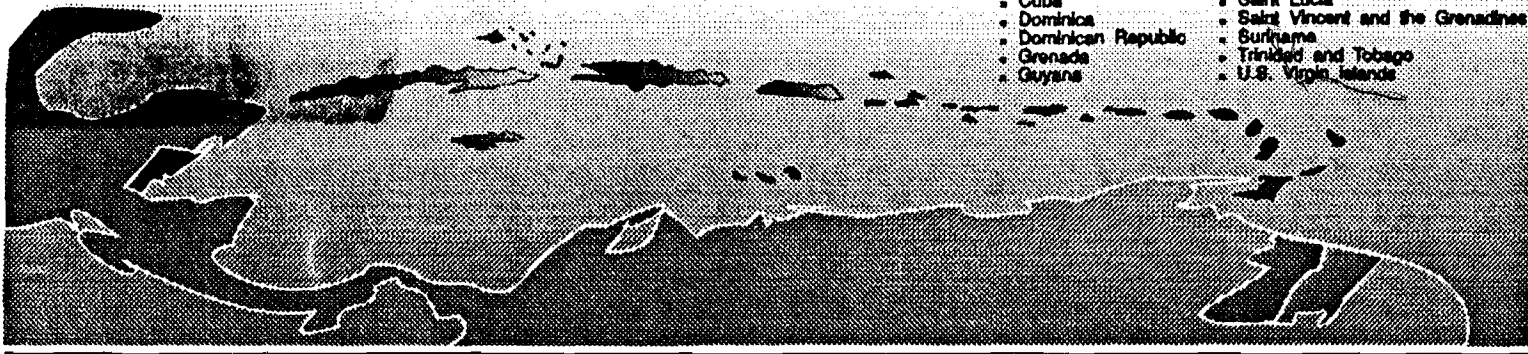
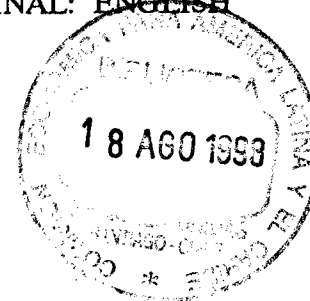


- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



ECLAC twenty-fourth session  
Santiago, Chile  
8-15 April 1992

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**REPORT OF CAUCUS OF DELEGATIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**

Santiago, Chile, 9 April 1992



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean  
**CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF CAUCUS OF DELEGATIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**

**Santiago, Chile, 9 April 1992**

Delegations of member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) met in informal caucus in Santiago, Chile, on 9 April 1992 during the twenty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The following persons participated in this meeting: Ambassador Lionel Hurst (Antigua and Barbuda); Merrill E. Robles and Wilhelmus P.M. Schouten (Aruba); Jorge García García (Cuba); William Joseph (Grenada); Barton Scotland, Lloyd Roopchand and Bibi N. Khan (Guyana); Cordell Wilson (Jamaica, Chairman); Joelle de Jong-Mercelina (Netherlands Antilles); Johannes Leonce (Saint Lucia); Michel Kerpens and Marja Naarendorp (Suriname); Gert Rosenthal and Daniel Blanchard (ECLAC) and Clyde Applewhite and Swinburne Lestrade (ECLAC-CDCC).

The agenda was as follows:

1. Matters arising from the 5th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee:
  - Project on the Removal of Language Barriers;
  - Participation on non-independent member countries in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED);
  - Work programme;
  - Convening of Workshop of CDCC Focal Points;
  - Inclusion of associate members in quorum requirement for sessions of the CDCC.
2. Issues on agenda for twenty-fourth session of ECLAC:
  - Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations;
  - Cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America;
  - Social equity and changes in production patterns: An integrated approach.
3. Upcoming meetings.
4. Any other business.

Agenda item 1:  
Matters arising from the 5th Meeting of the  
Monitoring Committee of the CDCC

**Project on the Removal of Language Barriers**

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles reminded participants of the high priority which the Government of the Netherlands Antilles had accorded to this project. She had presented a detailed report on activities under the project to the 5th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee in January 1992. This report was to be included in the final report of that meeting. She reported further that the consultants would shortly begin visits to member countries of the CDCC with a view to conducting the feasibility study. She hoped that a staff member of the CDCC secretariat would be able to accompany the consultants on their visits.

**Participation of the non-independent member countries in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)**

The secretariat reported that it had taken the follow-up action recommended by the Monitoring Committee and was aware that the issue had been addressed at the recently concluded preparatory conference in New York. Ambassador Hurst confirmed that Antigua and Barbuda had co-sponsored a resolution at this conference, proposing that non-independent countries be invited to participate at UNCED as observers. This resolution was adopted and was to be considered by the United Nations General Assembly during the month of April 1992.

**Work programme**

The secretariat reported that it had succeeded in having the 1994-1995 work programme modified to reflect the priorities indicated by the Monitoring Committee. It had also succeeded in having the 1992-1993 work programme modified to a more limited extent.

In response to a question, the secretariat clarified that it was only those programme activities deemed to be "operational" which required extrabudgetary funding for their execution.

Delegations expressed concern at the fact that the population activities of the Port-of-Spain Office of ECLAC were scheduled to terminate in December 1992 due to the discontinuation of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) support to this project. Delegations expressed disappointment that in spite of the strong concern expressed at the thirteenth session of the CDCC, including the adoption of a resolution on the subject, the system was so inflexible as to be unable to find a way to continue what was only a minimal capability in Port-of-Spain. This was particularly unfortunate, given the acknowledged importance of the work in this area, the hosting in Saint Lucia of the 1992 Preparatory Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Population and the continued need for technical backstopping of the newly established population units in some of the countries.

The Executive Secretary shared the concern of delegations on this issue. ECLAC (Santiago) had itself terminated the services of about eight staff members as a result of UNFPA's redirection of strategy in order to give priority to national projects. He observed that termination of the population activities in Port-of-Spain would not necessarily bring about a cessation of all UNFPA's support to the countries currently served by the project since UNFPA was increasing its direct support to national activities through multi-disciplinary teams.

He stated that ECLAC would be willing to commit a limited amount of resources to the Port-of-Spain Office for the purpose of extending its population activities for a further six months beyond December 1992. He hoped that this would assist the Port-of-Spain Office in securing additional funding for population activities. He thought that Caribbean Governments might want to make a formal representation to UNFPA on this issue.

#### **Convening of Workshop of CDCC Focal Points**

The secretariat reported that ECLAC had made \$15,000 available for the purpose of convening this workshop. The budget for this activity was between \$20,000 and \$25,000, however, and it was not known at this stage how the difference was going to be made up. The workshop had however, been tentatively scheduled for 6-7 July 1992 in Port-of-Spain.

#### **Inclusion of the associate members in quorum requirement for CDCC sessions**

With the assistance of the Secretary of the Commission, a ruling had been obtained from the Office of the Legal Counsel in New York, to the effect that the CDCC had the authority to amend its Rules of Procedures to provide for the associate members to be counted for purposes of the quorum for sessions of the CDCC.

#### **Agenda item 2:** **Issues on agenda for twenty-fourth session of ECLAC**

#### **Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations**

Representatives sought information on possible implications for the regional commissions of the restructuring of the United Nations.

While there had not yet been any indication of the thinking in New York on this matter, it was suggested that the regional commissions had the advantage of being decentralized outreach offices, closer to regional social and economic realities, and better able to reflect national concerns and sensitivities.

The paper prepared for the twenty-fourth session had proposed only minimal changes to the functioning of ECLAC, on the basis that the existing arrangement was operating satisfactorily and that intergovernmental forums, such as the CDCC, had proved to be very useful.

It was suggested that implications for the regional commissions would hinge on the extent to which financial resources were allocated to peace-keeping activities at the expense of development activities.

It was agreed that the Caribbean should join with Latin America in sending a message to New York regarding the importance of the regional commissions. It was noted that the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC would be adopting a resolution on this question.

### **Cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America**

It was noted that on examination of the work programme of ECLAC, there did not appear to be a sufficiently high level of Caribbean participation in programme activities undertaken by ECLAC, Santiago. More generally, there did not appear to be a high level of collaboration with regard to the work programme between the ECLAC Offices in Santiago and Port-of-Spain. It was agreed that opportunity should be taken of the debate on the resolution on Caribbean/Latin American cooperation to raise this issue.

The caucus noted that an Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Caribbean/Latin American cooperation had met in Santiago just prior to the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC and had reached the same conclusion.

### **Social equity and changing production patterns: An integrated approach**

The Port-of-Spain Office had made available to Caribbean delegations a paper summarizing the ECLAC document, Social equity and changing production patterns: An integrated approach, which provided a preliminary examination of this document from a Caribbean perspective. It was noted that the Port-of-Spain Office intended to further explore the theme of the integrated approach by bringing together policy makers and intellectuals in the Caribbean to address the issues raised in the ECLAC document.

### **Agenda item 3:** **Upcoming meetings**

The caucus took note of the following meetings scheduled to take place in the Caribbean during the remainder of 1992:

- (a) The Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Planning, scheduled for 29-30 April in the British Virgin Islands (ECLAC-CDCC/ILPES/EDI-World Bank);

(b) The Workshop on CDCC Focal Points, scheduled to take place on 6-7 July in Port-of-Spain (ECLAC-Santiago/ECLAC-CDCC);

(c) The biennial meeting of economic planners and policy makers, scheduled to take place in October in Port-of-Spain (ECLAC-CDCC);

(d) The Latin American and Caribbean Preparatory Conference on Population, scheduled to take place in October in Saint Lucia (ECLAC-CDCC/CELADE/UNFPA); and

(e) The fourteenth session of the CDCC, scheduled tentatively for 8-11 December in Grenada (ECLAC-CDCC).

Agenda item 4:  
Any other business

The caucus took note of resolutions which were before the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC, which were being co-sponsored by Caribbean delegations. These included resolutions on Caribbean/Latin American cooperation, women and the environment.